

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY S/PRS:PAMALLOY
APPROVED BY S/PRS:JHTRATTNER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 186211 TOSEC 080197

FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRS:MR. TRATTNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: CARTER--MIDDLE EAST

1. HERewith IS THE VERBATIM TEXT OF JAMES GERSTENZANG, AP
BYLINER FROM PLAINS, GEORGIA. SENT FOR YOUR INFORMATION
IN THE EVENT YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RECEIVED IT.

2. BEGIN TEXT: PLAINS, GA (AP)-- PRESIDENT CARTER SAID
TODAY THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERS HAVE INDICATED INDIRECTLY
TO THE UNITED STATES THAT THEY MAY ADOPT THE UNITED NATIONS
RESOLUTION THAT HAS SERVED AS A BASIS OF U.S. EFFORTS TO
RECONVENE THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.
BUT THE PRESIDENT, TALKING WITH REPORTERS OUTSIDE HIS
FAMILY'S BUSINESS OFFICE IN PLAINS, SAID THE CHANCES FOR
A RECONVENED PEACE MEETING REMAIN ABOUT THE SAME AS THEY
WERE BEFORE THE LATEST WORD FROM THE PALESTINIANS. BEGIN
QUOTE: THERE MIGHT BE OTHER OBSTACLES TO IT. END QUOTE,
CARTER SAID AFTER THE MORNING VISIT TO THE CARTER WARE-
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HOUSE OFFICE. IN TAIF, SAUDI ARABIA, U.S. OFFICIALS TRAVEL-
LING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS R. VANCE CONFIRMED THAT
THEY WERE IN INDIRECT CONTACT WITH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION ON POSSIBLE WAYS TO REMOVE ROAD BLOCKS TO A
MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE. THE PRESIDENT SAID THE
UNITED STATES HAD BEEN RECEIVING INDIRECT MESSAGES FROM THE
PALESTINIANS THROUGH SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN AND EGYPT

AND SAID: BEGIN QUOTE: THEY MAY ADOPT U.N. RESOLUTION
242 WHICH DOES RECOGNIZE ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST SECURELY
AND IN PEACE, WITH SECURE BORDERS. END QUOTE. RECOGNITION
OF THE U.N. RESOLUTION, WHICH THE PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION, HAS FOUGHT FOR YEARS, WOULD BE CONSIDERED A
BREAKTHROUGH IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE ATTEMPTS. CARTER SAID
HE COULD NOT DETERMINE WHAT WOULD ACTUALLY HAPPEN UNTIL
HE GETS A REPORT FROM VANCE, WHO HAD BEEN DUE BACK THIS
WEEK. HE SAID THAT VANCE, IN THE MIDST OF A ROUND OF
TALKS WITH MIDDLE EAST LEADERS, MAY QUOTE DOUBLE BACK
UNQUOTE AND TALK TO SOME OF THEM AGAIN IN A CONTINUING,
TRAVELLING DIALOGUE. BEGIN QUOTE: IF THE PALESTINIANS
WILL RECOGNIZE THE APPLICABILITY OF THE U.N. RESOLUTIONS,
THEN THAT WOULD OPEN UP A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO START
DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM AND ALSO OPEN UP AN AVENUE THAT
THEY MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE....BUT
WHETHER THEY'LL DO THAT, WE DON'T KNOW. END QUOTE. CHRISTOPHER

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